

FREIGHT MOBILITY STRATEGIC INVESTMENT BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

**July 18, 2003
Bellingham, Washington**

Board members present were Chairman Dan O'Neal, Ms. Pati Otley, Mr. Ross Kelley, Mr. Andrew Johnsen, Mr. Don Lemmons, Mr. Doug MacDonald, Mark Asmundson, Mr. Cliff Benson Mr. Jim Toomey.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS: Chairman Dan O'Neal welcomed all to the meeting.

MINUTES: Mr. Don Lemmons *moved, and Mr. Cliff Benson seconded to approve the May 9, 2003 meeting minutes.*

MOTION CARRIED

FMSIB BUDGET: The Schmidt reported that FMSIB has an approximate \$119,000.00 surplus for 2001-03 which when final bills are paid will more than likely turn back will be around \$100,000.00.

Union Pacific funds continue to earn interest. We still need guidelines on how to invest the interest and surplus. Four projects are in jeopardy of having to return funds if they are not in construction by 2009.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT: The Director reported on the agency's activities since the last meeting.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS: Cliff Benson reported on activities at the PSRC and the California Street dedication. Mark Asmundsen and Andrew Johnsen briefed the board on the efforts to establish a West Coast Coalition. Andrew Johnsen also reported on the TRB meeting he and the director attended. Jim Toomy reported on the dedication of the Union Gap project and Director Schmidt reported on the 180th St dedication.

PROJECT CHANGES: Mr. Doug MacDonald explained that since the nickel revenue package funded some of the WSDOT projects on the FMSIB list they could now be removed from the active project list seeking funding. Another project was fully funded with federal dollars and could also be removed. The projects are:

- SR 9 –SR 546 Nooksack Rd. to SR 547 Cherry Street
- US 12-SR 124 to SR 730
- SR 20- Fredonia to I-5
- I-90 – Argonne to Sullivan
- SR 543 – I-5 to International Boundary / Border Crossing
- SR 3/304 Bremerton

MOTION: Mr. Don Lemmons moved, and Mr. Cliff Benson seconded that since the projects are now currently funded we would remove them from our active list but they will continue to move forward as WSDOT and FMSIB projects. If something changes the status of the funding we will return the projects to the FMSIB list

MOTION CARRIED

AGENCY WORKPLAN: Director Schmidt and Mr. Andrew Johnsen briefed the board on the Governor's proposed Maritime Conference. FMSIB will be asked to assist with funding a small portion of the conference material costs

The Board expressed interest in hearing an update on the Columbia River at the September meeting.

The board determined that the annual report should be the same format as in the past and continue to highlight project specifics. Project photos, graphs and an assessment of the freight transportation system should be included. The health of the industry should be highlighted with ports, rail, and truckers providing data that addresses their competitiveness and what they are facing.

The board determined that the minutes should be done in an abbreviated form.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT: Director Schmidt introduced Mr. Jeff Doyle, Staff Director and Mr. Gary Lebow chief budget writer of the House Transportation Committee.

Representative Doug Ericksen, 42nd legislative district and Ranking Republican on the House Transportation Committee joined the board for a brief presentation on legislative issues. He indicated his belief that FMSIB is working and is a model that should be duplicated in other parts of government as well as his disappointment about the failure to dedicate truck fees to Freight Mobility Board projects. He expressed his desire to continue to work toward that goal.

BORDER ISSUES: Mr. Jim Miller Executive Director Council of Governments Whatcom County and Mr. Hugh Conroy gave a brief presentation to the board of the border issues facing the area.

Objectives for the future are to promote the US-Canada Smart Border Declaration, Increase US border staffing. Improve traffic management at the Pacific Highway & Sumas ports of entry and promote the adoption of passenger-rail.

Customs and border protection have blended their commercial pre-clearance programs and are working to increase their level of technology. Currently the electronics of those programs are being installed at the ports of entry and this will allow shipment by truck, that have pre-filed their entry documentation electronically, to use a dedicated lane to expedite them through the border. A dedicated lane would be needed for this program, which is not in place at this time. The plan is for dedicated lanes on both SR 543 and Southbound Highway 15. Funding is available for both projects to move forward, and they are anticipating that the southbound lane will be operational by June of next year.

The board was also provided with the West Coast Corridor System Report Phase 1 and the IMTC Cascade Gateway information sheet and the Review of the Cascade Gateway Cross-border Freight Issues paper.

FUTURE MEETINGS: *Mr. Mark Asmundson moved, and Mr. Cliff Benson seconded to approve the 2004 meeting schedule.*

*January 16, 2004 Olympia, WA
March 19, 2004 Tacoma, WA
May 14, 2004 Yakima, WA
July 16, 2004 Kent or Auburn, WA
September 16&17, 2004 Walla Walla, WA
November 19, 2004 Kelso, WA*

MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Mark Asmundson moved, Ms. Pati Otley seconded to remove September 25, 2003 from the 2003 FMSIB meeting schedule keeping the September 26, 2003 meeting date for Pasco, WA

MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Mark Asmundson moved, Mr. Cliff Benson seconded to change the November 14, 2003 meeting location from La Connor, WA to Seattle, WA.

MOTION CARRIED

MEETING ADJOURNED 12:00 PM



A. DANIEL O'NEAL, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:



KAREN SCHMIDT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR